

OUR WORK

PEOPLE



**GUARDING THE SIGHT OF THE SEEING
EXPANDING THE WORLD OF THE BLIND**

**FLORIDA
COUNCIL
FOR THE BLIND**



17th Annual Report
1957-1958

Dedication

To the over 10,000 people of Florida who are blind, to those whose ears and hands now do for eyes, to the people who, denied the warmth of a friendly smile, now sense it in the sounds of voice, to those who cannot see the everyday beauty known to the sighted . . . and yet, denied the excitement and wonder that vision can convey, continue to be cheerful, willing, cooperative and unafraid; to those blind people of Florida whom we are proud to serve and befriend, this report is respectfully dedicated.

STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR COLLINS

All Floridians can take pride in the progress made by the Florida Council for the Blind toward its goal of serving the needs of the blind in this state.

In serving the more than 10,000 persons in the Sunshine State who live in darkness or semi-darkness, the Florida Council for the Blind is doing more than assisting just one group of our citizens. It is in a real sense serving all the people of Florida by helping those with sight handicaps to maintain healthy, happy and productive lives in society.

Above all, the greatest accomplishment of the Council is its effectiveness in helping these persons to help themselves.

Sincerely,
LEROY COLLINS,
Governor.



GOV. LEROY COLLINS



ABOUT THE COVER

Little Stevie Tillis is going to school this September at the St. Augustine School for the Deaf and Blind. It is his first year. Because Stevie is intelligent, very curious, and always hungry, he will bring the teachers both joy and grey hair. When his parents visited the Council at its headquarters in Tampa one morning to discuss Stevie's enrollment at the school, he was more interested in others. He wandered into the Information room to say hello, into the Medical department to say hello, into the Vocational Rehabilitation department to say hello. All work stopped. Before he left we took a picture of this little blind boy that he might say hello to you, too.



E. B. BRANT
Chairman



WILLIAM CATLIN
Vice-Chairman



DUDLEY B. RAWLS



JULIUS L. GRESHAM



NORMAN S. STONE

A MESSAGE: STATE BOARD OF THE COUNCIL

We believe that a blind person wants and needs not a pension or pity, but the dignity of a productive life. He wants the opportunity to help himself. He needs the chance to meet the challenges of life.

We believe in the restoration and preservation of the incentive, the resourcefulness, and the pride of the individual regardless of his physical disability.

We believe each man has a right to pursue the meaningful life — instead of a guaranteed existence — and this applies to the blind man or woman. These beliefs have governed the Florida Council for the Blind.

This report shows how we have lived up to them.

A WORD: THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This booklet is more than just an annual report as required by law.

It is a story of people and how your tax dollar made them happier, healthier and more productive citizens. It tells how many of them became economically independent — tax payers instead of tax recipients.

Read this report carefully. It is the story of someone you know in your community. It may even be your story.



HARRY E. SIMMONS

The Council does not have and never will have an "easy" case of someone with eye trouble. Since we are not God, but simply an organization of human beings trying to help other human beings, we cannot regard lightly any person's eye problems and his resulting economic and social problems. We do not gamble with a man's emotions and happiness. Every problem is a real and serious one.

But sometimes the Council works with a person whose handicap is so great, so complex that every resource of the agency is used, all the experience and knowledge of years of study must be made available for him. This must be done if we are to accomplish what other men call incredible.

The Florida Council for the Blind was designated as the agency that solved the "Case of the Year," one of those "incredible cases." It has been chosen four of the six years the selections were made for the outstanding agency in the South.

Briefly, this is the Earl Lipham Story in his own words when the gold watch, symbolic of the highest honor in vocational rehabilitation, was given to him at a banquet.

It is a story that also points out our reason for being.



"This means a lot . . . this is something to get this award . . . I don't know . . . I feel more like a man . . . I mean a man like you . . . not just a body . . . a man . . . It was a long time ago when I was eleven years old . . . and the gun went off and they said I might die . . . and after I thought sometimes it might have been better . . . I was blind and I couldn't move . . . and it was nothing to be a boy like that . . . but even though I couldn't be a boy I knew I would have to be a man someday . . . a counselor came to the house and I told him of my ideas . . . to be a man . . . and he said 'Earl, you keep on thinking that way . . . we're going to start on that someday soon' . . . and we worked on it . . . for years we had to . . . for fourteen years . . . the surgery . . . the studying . . . the physical workouts . . . and practicing . . . and more surgery . . . and all the long, good talks we had . . . we had to work. I had big ideas of a house and a wife and children . . . but I had to have a job . . . I couldn't be average because people just . . . you know . . . well, they just think sometimes because you are blind you're not as good . . . so you have to be better . . . and we did it . . . all of us . . . the Council and me . . . we did it . . . and . . . well . . . thanks."

Earl Lipham

IT'S THE ABILITY THAT COUNTS; NOT THE DISABILITY

One program of the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the Council, the vending stand department, is often referred to as the "showcase of the agency." By its very nature of being a retail outlet of convenience merchandise, the vending stands around the state managed by 83 full time blind managers serve thousands of Floridians and tourists each day. Contact with these cheerful, efficient blind sales persons helps to convince the public that blind people are normal individuals . . . with a disability.



SHOWCASE OF THE AGENCY

RESULTS

Year	No. Blind Employed	Gross Sales	Earnings to Blind Operators
1942	17	\$ 15,228	\$ 4,970
1946	31	222,423	40,134
1952	61	706,972	119,080
1958	83 Mgrs. & Assts.	1,017,705	208,846

ASSETS

	1952	1958
Stand Equipment -----	\$ 50,776	\$181,442
Stand Inventories -----	18,706	34,415
Stand Petty Cash -----	2,990	4,685
TOTAL ASSETS -----	72,472	220,542
Total Sales—Fiscal Year -----	706,972	1,017,705
Total Earnings of Blind Operators ---	119,080	208,846

VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION

W. R. YOUNG
DIRECTOR

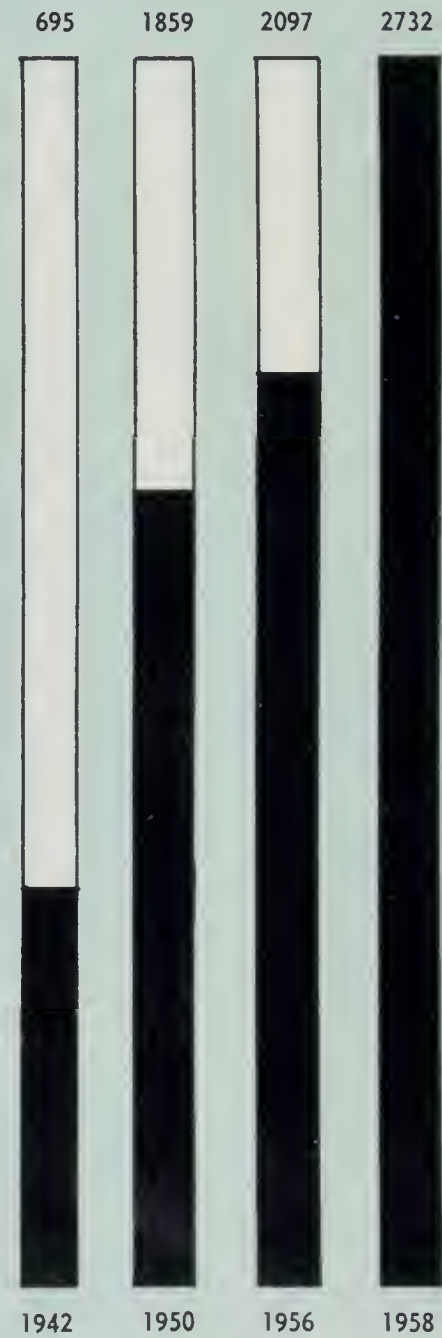
THESE SERVICES WERE PROVIDED THIS YEAR

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Florida Council for the Blind offers a highly trained professional staff and special facilities to assist blind people, to prepare for employment, find jobs, and to keep them. Involved in this sometimes lengthy and complicated process may be almost continual counseling guidance.

Number of persons placed in employment -----	261
Number of job surveys -----	373
New, voluntary applications for employment help requested because of fear of serious eye difficulty -----	2,601
Number of client contacts for vocational purposes -----	10,963
Also*	
Prosthesis following surgery -----	254
Days of hospitalization -----	1,489
Surgeries for physical disabilities other than visual -----	10
Eye surgeries -----	156
Special physical examinations -----	439
Eye examinations -----	1,082

* Figures also included in Medical and Social Services.

26,240 REGISTERED CLIENTS





I'm pretty good with my hands. I guess I'll have to use them now for eyes.



I know I can do something. I'm a very good typist. I was a supervisor.

I was in advertising. Car accident. Lost my sight in both eyes. Can I ever go back to the agency?



I was looking forward to my retirement. Get some fishing in. Play cards. Now what?

THESE ARE OUR PEOPLE . . .

THE BLIND PEOPLE OF FLORIDA



You want to send me to school? What if I went. How do you know anyone would hire a blind mechanic?



I'm losing my sight rapidly. The doctor says there is little that can be done. What will I do when I'm blind?



I have a blind child and I want to know what to do now that she is beginning to creep. And soon she'll walk.

MEDICAL ADVISORY



The foundation of the Council's eye medical program: The Medical Advisory Committee. They head the panel of ophthalmologists of the state who often donate their eye surgical skills without reimbursement. They are from left to right: Charles C. Grace, M.D., St. Augustine; Nathan S. Rubin, M.D., Pensacola; C. S. McLemore, M.D., Orlando; William Y. Sayad, M.D., West Palm Beach; S. B. Forbes, M.D., Tampa; Shaler Richardson, M.D., Jacksonville; Kenneth Whitmer, M. D., Miami.



THE REHABILITA



COUNSELING: KEY TO ALL SERVICES

The historic way of looking at blindness is to see it as a tragedy. Man's earliest records display the blind person as something apart from life, as something mysterious and different. For centuries this view remained unchallenged. But history changes as man comes closer to the truth because man is too dynamic a being to remain always ignorant of a truth's existence.

Today, blindness has not lost its emotional impact of tragedy in the eyes of the public, but it has been tempered to exclude the quality of hopelessness. Blindness is a crisis in a person's life that can be resolved.

TALKING BOOK LIBRARY



There is this ideal: every blind person can be found to be a tax paying individual rather than a tax recipient to aid him attain this stature. Full rehabilitation, including to acquire ability and skill, is the aim of the vocational

It is precisely this aim that converts potential talent into a person and for society.

From arranging for hospitalization and surgery to business training for the blind husband and father, the Florida's visually handicapped people and cooperating

Because no one person can be a child expert, a medical educator and an administrator, the Council's department duties. It is this kind of breakdown that has made the difference for the blind in the nation for its number and quality

We work with people who have special problems.

VENDING STAND PROGRAM



PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS



DIAGNOSTIC TRAINING CENTER



MEDICAL SERVICES



ATION PROCESS

MEDICAL SERVICES	ARTIFICIAL APPLIANCES	TRAINING	TRANSPORTATION AND MAINTENANCE	TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT	PLACEMENT	FOLLOW-UP
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The question that is uppermost in the counselor's mind when he first consults with a blind person is how to understand, reach and help him. He is hoping to instill trust, confidence, and an independence of decision in the person through personal contact, the heart of all our work.

Blind people are individuals and have the same right to be treated as individuals as any sighted person. With this in mind, it is the counselor who understands both the problems associated with blindness and the problems of the individual, and who is best in a position to utilize all the facilities, all the services of the agency. This individual, personal contact is the basis for a blind person's moving ahead.

financially secure and economically independent in order that, if we are willing to invest time, energy and resources including employment of the blind person after training and counseling.

leads into economic gain for the good of the blind per-

son that may save the sight of a child to providing special services. The counselor travels the state learning of the needs of the blind with them to resolve their problems.

Medical specialist, a vocational rehabilitation counselor, and other personnel require specially trained personnel to carry on these services. The Florida Council for the Blind one of the finest agencies providing a wide variety of services.

But primarily we work with and for people.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES



FLORIDA COOPERATIVE FOR THE BLIND



HOME TEACHING



SIGHT RESTORATION



PUBLIC INFORMATION





I'm telling you he gave me a battle. That fish just wouldn't quit. Say, counselor, have time for a quick game of gin rummy?



We're expanding now. Once my clients learned I was a good writer business picked up.

My boss gave me a raise last month. He said I was one of the best typists he ever had. It was music to my ears.



Did I tell you I was given the "Industrial Worker of the Year" award? I don't think I could have done it without you.



THESE ARE OUR PEOPLE . . . INDEPENDENT - CONFIDENT EMPLOYED



I'm not so frightened anymore about my little girl. She's beginning to learn where everything is in the house and now it is rare when she bumps into things.



I'm a salesman with a roofing company. Just between you and me, counselor, I'm making more now in commissions than I did when I was sighted — and half my customers still don't know I'm blind.

I think when I graduated from diesel school at the top of my class I began to have faith in myself. I'm doing all right now.



BLIND ADVISORY



This committee evaluates and advises on policies and programs of the agency pertaining to the visually handicapped. Membership of outstanding blind citizens on the committee helps to insure the best of services for blind people. Left to right: Marie Hoover, Tallahassee; Joe Albrecht, St. Augustine; William B. Moorefield, Kissimmee; Claude B. Garland, Jr., Leesburg; Joe Yates, Miami; Lucy Dent Smith, Tampa. Not shown is Maurice Tynan, Mt. Dora.

MEDICAL CASE WORK (DIAGNOSTIC)
LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SIGHT RESTORATION
PHYSICAL RESTORATION
HOME TEACHING

RELATED SOCIAL CASE WORK
SPECIAL SERVICES FOR THE BLIND
SUB-NORMAL VISION AIDS

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS (REMEDIAL) (EDUCATION)

PREVENTION of BLINDNESS, MEDICAL and SOCIAL SERVICES

G. J. EMANUELE, DIRECTOR

MEDICAL SERVICES FOR ADULTS

Eye Examinations	1890
Major Eye Surgeries	435
Eye Medical Treatments ..	96
Number of Days of Hospitalization	2749
Number of Prosthesis Furnished	260
Sight Restored —	
Blindness Prevented	249
Number of Client Contacts at Home	8578



MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Eye Examinations	814
Physical Examinations	437
Surgeries	161
Days of Hospitalization	491
Pairs of Glasses—Artificial Eyes ...	329

The Talking Book:

Although a blind person is unable to see print, he is not without the opportunity to enjoy good books. The Florida Council for the Blind and the Library of Congress coordinate their services so that almost all popular books can be "read" on Talking Books, special long play records mailed free of charge with recording machines.

Number of Talking Book Readers	2,176
Number of complete books in the library	1,525
Number of Talking Books sent to blind readers	50,722

Special Services:

There are special services available to blind people and groups interested in the prevention of blindness. Explanations of work for the blind, causes of blindness, and detection of eye trouble can be received by contacting the state agency at its headquarters in Tampa.

Canes, Braille Materials, Games, etc. distributed ..	9,807
Radios given to blind persons	34
Snellen Eye Charts distributed	981
Literature distributed	29,641

Medical Services

The first step in providing medical services for someone with eye trouble is a thorough eye medical examination to determine whether pathology or abnormality exists. This is absolutely necessary to learn if sight can be restored or further loss of vision prevented. Treatment may then follow. In order that the blind person may have every opportunity to pursue a vocation successfully, every attempt is also made to restore any other loss of normal function of the body.

Especially in children, early detection of eye troubles and prompt care is important to future eye health and overall growth and development. Therefore, close cooperation is maintained with county health and welfare units, school nurses, civic and fraternal groups, and interested individuals.

Case work, involving parents and children, is another activity requiring skill and understanding by the medical division staff to adequately advise and administer services.

We give thanks to those panel ophthalmologists who contribute their time and professional skill that Florida's needy may see.

Many of the Council's most gratifying results involve the restoration of sight to those who have lost it to cataracts and other diseases. Wherever possible, whether a man is able to work or not, services are provided which will bring back his sight so that his life will be more independent and more satisfying.

No words can express the appreciation so many of our Florida citizens and the Council feel for those doctors who unselfishly contribute to their fellow man's well-being.

HOW THE CASE SERVICE DOLLARS WERE SPENT 1957-1958

Medical Examinations	\$ 44,520.15	11.48%
Medical treatment and surgery	47,112.84	12.15%
Hospitalization	57,946.43	14.94%
Prosthetic appliances	10,931.19	2.82%
Pre-vocational and vocational training	92,048.74	23.73%
Training supplies and occupational equipment	107,229.30	27.65%
Subsistence and transportation	28,140.26	7.23%
Total Case Service Money	\$387,928.91	100%

We Must . . .



. . . . And We Do

How to Refer a Client to the Florida Council for the Blind

Severely visually handicapped persons in need of the services offered by this agency should be advised to:

1. Make application through the nearest District Welfare Board office, especially if they are recipients of any public assistance, as Aid to the Blind, Aid to Dependent Children, or Old-Age Assistance, or
2. Make application through any county health office, or
3. Write to the Florida Council for the Blind, 416 S. Tampania, P. O. Box 1229, Tampa, Florida, stating eye condition, if known, and services needed. A representative of the agency will call and take the application.

Emergency cases will be given immediate attention. All other applications are requested to be patient and understand that it is the desire of the Council to serve as many as is physically and financially possible every month, but a few weeks lapse between application and service is unavoidable at the present time.